



MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal:

The Skidder Trap timber sale and attached Forest Practice Application No. 3609981, will combine variable retention and uneven aged harvest methods. It is composed of twelve units and their associated right-of-ways. Five of these units are wetland management zones and have a partial cut prescription. The sale will remove 9,983 mbf from 279 net cruise acres.

Description of mitigation: The following Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) procedures apply:

Northern Spotted Owl: (Procedure PR-14-004-120)

This proposal complies with the HCP because it follows Procedure 14-004-120. No activity will occur in areas designated as owl habitat in the settlement agreement.

Marbled Murrelet: (Procedure PR-14-004-320)

The proposed harvest area was evaluated for its suitability as potential marbled murrelet habitat using the DNR's computer modeling technique. The model is approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is consistent with the State's HCP management strategy for marbled murrelets. A total of 10 acres in Units 1-3 are considered released reclassified habitat. 568 acres of released reclassified habitat were made available for harvest in the Discovery Bay WAU. To date only 163 acres have been used. This will leave 395 acres still available after this harvest.

Riparian and Wetland Management Zones (RMZ/WMZ): (Procedure PR-14-004-150)

A 100 ft wide RMZ has been applied to all of the Type 4 waters within the proposal area. A 167 ft wide, (100 year site index) RMZ has also been established along the Type 3 stream. No wind buffer was applied; however harvest will not occur within these RMZs. The large wetland complex is protected by the same 167 ft site index width WMZ. A 56 ft buffer was also established around a side slope seep as part of the design of one of the leave tree areas. Planned road construction will occur within the WMZ in Units 10 and 11. On site and in-kind equal acreage mitigation has been provided in accordance with DNR's wetland policy. The loss of basal area and disturbed WMZ acreage has been compensated for in two ways. More than 120 square feet of basal area per acre has been retained in other parts of the WMZ, and the buffer width was expanded near the areas of road intrusion. Of the 0.15 acres of road planned to be constructed through the WMZ of Unit 10, and 0.17 acres of planned road construction in Unit 11, an additional 0.32 acres of forested land has been added to the WMZ. The road segment in Unit 10 will also be abandoned.

Slope Stability: (Procedure PR-14-004-050)

A geologic assessment has been performed to help ensure that areas of potential slope instability are not present within the proposed sale, and that proposed management activities will not significantly increase the risk of mass wasting in the general area. Slopes exceeding 70% associated with the inner gorge of streams near Units 1 and 2 have been excluded from the sale area. No glacial deep-seated slope failures are in or adjacent to the sale.

Retention Trees: (Procedure PR-14-006-090)

Leave tree selection criteria and leave tree distribution strategies were implemented to protect streams, wetlands, and seeps, maintain water quality, reduce visual impacts from highways, and to maintain large and structurally unique trees with high wildlife value. An average of 8 trees per acre was retained for a total of 1,907 over 238 acres of traversed, variable retention harvest area. 79% of the leave trees are clumped and 21% are dispersed. No older residual trees were found to mark as leave trees in the sale area.

Roads: There is 35,955 feet of pre-haul maintenance, 4,630 feet of reconstruction, 20,662 feet of new road construction, and 3,585 feet of abandonment. Two on site pits will be expanded by 1.3 acres, and one new pit may be developed. Surfacing materials will come from a commercial rock source. Two large fills and associated undersized pipes on the PT-S-5400 will be replaced with this proposal. These RMAP projects have engineered designs to ensure proper sizing, and that installations occur using proper road construction techniques. Unsuitable fill material that is removed will be end hauled to a stable waste area, and backfill will be well compacted. Two hundred feet of sidecast retrieval will also occur along this road. Engineered designs have been developed for the steeper portions of road construction on the PT-S-5000, PT-S-5120, and PT-S-5125 roads. Full bench road construction with end haul of excavated material will occur on these steeper side slopes. Excess material from excavation will also be end hauled to stable locations, and will be compacted and grass seeded. A seasonal restriction of November 1st through April 30th will be placed on road work.

Cultural Resources: (Procedure PR-14-004-030)

The DNR's TRAX system and Special Concerns Report were reviewed, along with the 1930's USGS maps found within the cultural resources layer of the State Uplands Viewing Tool. The proposed sale and surrounding area were surveyed by the State's archeologist and local cultural resource technician. A site protection plan is being developed by the State's archeologist for submission to the Department of Archeology and Historical Preservation for the sites located outside of the sale area. Those items observed interior to the sale area do not warrant specific protection measures according to the archeologist. See copy of email/memo on file at the Olympic Region Office.

For specifics on all mitigation measures consult the SEPA document for this proposal.

Proponent: Department of Natural Resources – Olympic Region

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: Sections 2, 3, 4, and 9, of T28N, R02W, W.M.

Lead agency: Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ **There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.**

☒ **This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from July 16, 2009. Comments must be submitted by July 30, 2009**

Responsible official: John X. Viada
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Date: _____

Signature: John X. Viada

There is no agency SEPA appeal.
11/09/00

OK
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